

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

The Honorable Richard Lugar United States Senate 306 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20515-1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

I am pleased to join with other leaders in our state in support of the DREAM Act currently being considered in Congress. Successful passage of this legislation will greatly assist thousands of undocumented students to achieve a college education.

Although undocumented students are not prohibited from admission to college solely due to their citizenship status, a number of barriers keep them from attending. Two of these impediments, (1) the inability to pay for college and (2) the limited career opportunities for noncitizens, would be addressed by the legislation.

For many of these young people, conditional legal status would greatly assist acceptance into college thus providing a pathway for learning, career opportunities, and an improved quality of life. Transformational experience for these students would have an enduring impact upon their families, the communities they serve, and our society.

In the midst of the unresolved broader debate in this country about immigration issues, the DREAM Act will empower many young adults to turn aspirations into action. DREAM also helps lay the groundwork for consensus on other fronts in the immigration debate, which can prompt more much-needed progress.

Senator Lugar, your leadership on the issue is deeply appreciated. It is my privilege to offer my support for this important bill.

Sincerely,

Henry KSmith, Ph.D.

President

cc: Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent, The Wesleyan Church Norman Wilson, Intercultural Studies, Professor